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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/572,378	03/16/2006	Kazuyoshi Koizumi	NIF-107	5660
32628	7590	12/09/2009	EXAMINER	
KANESAKA BERNER AND PARTNERS LLP			RASHID, MAHBUBUR	
1700 DIAGONAL RD			ART UNIT	
SUITE 310			PAPER NUMBER	
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2848			3657	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/09/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/572,378	Applicant(s) KOIZUMI ET AL.
	Examiner MAHBUBUR RASHID	Art Unit 3657

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2009.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 8-16 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 8-16 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) _____
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Claims 1-7 are canceled.

Claims 8, 11, 12 and 14 are amended.

Claims 15 and 16 are newly added.

Claim Objections

Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities: it is not clear how the air movement passage connects two of the air retention portions as disclosed in line 17 of the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

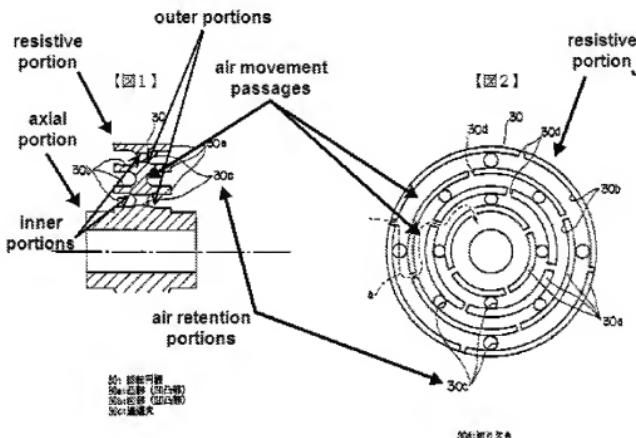
The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

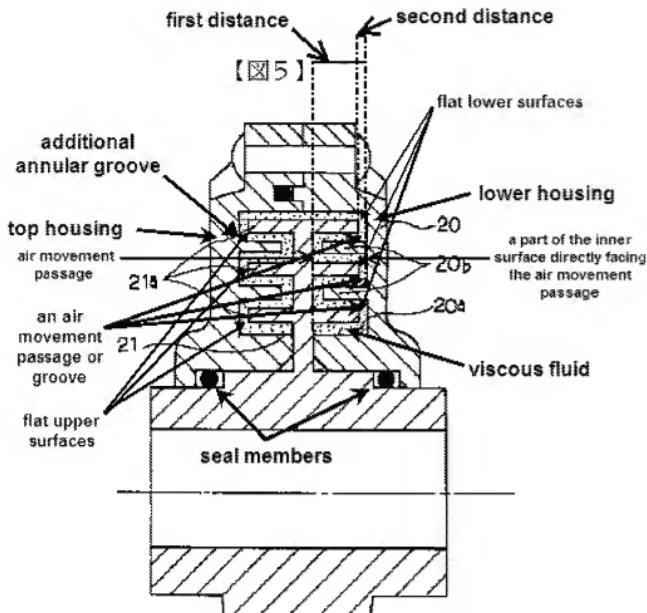
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 8-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ide Takanobu (JP 05-044760) in views of Sugawara et al. (US 4,938,322).





Regarding **claims 8-16**, Takanobu discloses a rotary damper comprising:
a housing (20);
a viscous fluid housed inside the housing (see fig. 5);

a rotor (see fig. 1, (1)) disposed inside the housing and having an axial portion (21) projecting from the housing, and a circular resistive portion (30a) which moves through said viscous fluid inside said housing, said rotor (1) having a smooth outer periphery extending continuously without interruption (see figs. 1 and 2) and flat upper and lower surfaces without a projection (see 2nd figure above); and

a sealing member (see fig. 5, the top and bottom seals between 20 and 30) preventing said viscous fluid from leaking between said axial portion and said housing, and

wherein said resistive portion (30a) includes multiple air retention portions (30C) provided annularly and intermittently around the axial portion thereof, and the housing has air movement passage (see 2nd figure above) connecting two of the air retention portions.

Takanobu disclose all claimed elements as set forth above but fails to disclose the circumferential extension arc shape or an elongated through-bore of the air retention portion as claimed. However, Sugawara discloses a damper device (figs. 5a-5d) with a rotor (6) having air retention portion extending circumferentially in an arc shape or the portion being formed by elongated through-bore (6c). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the disc of Takanobu with the arc shaped air retention portion or the portions being formed by elongated through-bore as taught by Sugawara, because the arc shaped air retention portion being formed by elongated through-bore will accelerate the flow of viscous liquid to ensure a smooth movement of viscous liquid.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 8-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Regarding flat upper and lower surfaces, JP '760 discloses flat upper and lower surfaces of the rotor without a projection and clearly shown in figs. 1 and 5 and the figures above.

Regarding the air movement passage, JP '760 discloses annular air movement passage (fig. 5 and figures above) that connects at least two of the air retention portions (30c) of the rotor.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MAHBUBUR RASHID whose telephone number is (571)272-7218. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Siconolfi can be reached on (571) 272-7124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Bradley T King/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3657

/M. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 3657